

VEIP - Vehicle “Not Ready” for Testing

What does “not ready” for OBD testing mean?

Most of today’s vehicles have built-in, On Board Diagnostics (OBD) systems. The OBD system consists of a series of monitors that check various emissions control components and systems when the engine is running. When the VEIP test equipment is plugged into the vehicle’s OBD system through a connector, usually under the dashboard, the monitors send messages to the test equipment indicating whether they are “ready” or “not ready” for emissions testing. If a monitor does not have enough information to fully assess its assigned component or system in the vehicle, a “not ready” message is sent to the test equipment. If too many monitors are set to “not ready,” an OBD emissions test result of pass or fail cannot be determined. “Not ready” for OBD testing does not mean that a vehicle failed the emissions test. It only indicates that the vehicle cannot be fully OBD tested because all the information needed to make a pass or fail determination is not available.

What causes the OBD monitors to be “not ready”?

A power loss to the vehicle’s OBD system may cause the monitors to read “not ready.” A power loss may occur when the vehicle’s battery is replaced, or when repair work is done that requires the battery to be disconnected. The monitors will change to “not ready” status when trouble codes are erased from the OBD system following repairs to turn off the “check engine” or similar dashboard light. If the monitors indicate that they are “not ready” when the vehicle is brought in for a VEIP emissions test, the vehicle may not have been driven long enough after the repairs for the monitors to reset themselves.

What can be done to get a vehicle “ready” for testing?

Usually, driving the vehicle in a normal manner for one week allows enough time for the monitors to reset to “ready” status.

For more information call the Maryland Department of the Environment at 1-800-633-6101 ext. 3270 (toll free in Maryland) or 410-537-3270.